

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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-----030148 211800Z /50

R 211726Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5350
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UK MARR MASS
SUBJECT: MULLEY'S TALK TO WORKERS AT HAWKER SIDDELEY
DYNAMICS, BOLTON

SUMMARY: MULLEY, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AS PART OF A SPECIAL EFFORT HE IS MAKING TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF DEFENSE, USED A RECENT VISIT TO THE LOSTOCK, BOLTON PLANT OF HAWKER SIDDELEY DYNAMICS (NOW PART OF BRITISH AEROSPACE CORP) TO MAKE A SPEECH WHICH EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF BRITAIN'S DEFENSE CONTRIBUTION TO NATO SECURITY. WHILE THE SPEECH CONTAINS NOTHING NEW, IT IS CAST IN A FAIRLY UPBEAT TONE AND, FOR SOMEONE WHO FEELS QUITE DEFENSIVE ABOUT THE RECENT CUTBACKS, IS AN APOLOGIA PRO VITA SUA. MULLEY RECENTLY MENTIONED TO POL-MIL ATTACHE HE IS MAKING A "SPECIAL EFFORT" TO GET OUT AND VISIT DEFENSE FACTORIES AND WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNION LEADERS. HAWKER SIDDELEY DYNAMICS PRODUCES AMONG MAJOR ITEMS OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT THE AIR TO AIR MISSILE SKYFLASH FOR THE RAF AND SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE SEA DART FOR THE ROYAL NAVY. THE VISIT OF HSD IS AN EXTENSION TO THE PROGRAM OF VISITS TO

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BRITISH SERVICE UNITS, DEFENSE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENTS AND ROYAL ORDNANCE FACTORIES. MOD PROVIDED THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF HIS SPEECH WHICH WE QUOTE IN FULL. END SUMMARY.

QUOTE BRITAIN'S COMMITMENT TO NATO IS AN ABSOLUTE ONE. THIS IS BORNE OUT BY OUR CONTRIBUTION: THE ROYAL NAVY IS THE LARGEST WESTERN EUROPEAN NAVY, CONTRIBUTING

70 PERCENT OF NATO'S READY MARITIME FORCES IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE CHANNEL; WE MAINTAIN 55,000 TROOPS ON THE EUROPEAN MAINLAND AND 45,000 IN THE UNITED KINGDOM; THE ROYAL AIR FORCE HAS 40 SQUADRONS OF FIXED WING AIRCRAFT IN FRONTLINE SERVICE. BRITAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO IS A MAJOR ONE AND IS RECOGNISED AS SUCH BY OUR ALLIES. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT OUR ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE COMPELLED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SOME REDUCTIONS IN DEFENCE EXPENDITURE PLANS; AND THEY ALSO APPRECIATE THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE AN ENLARGED MILITARY CONTRIBUTION AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR LONG-TERM ECONOMIC STRENGTH. IT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROPORTION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S GNP DEVOTED TO DEFENCE IS STILL WELL ABOVE THAT OF MOST OF OUR NATO ALLIES; AND OVER A THIRD OF OUR DEFENCE BUDGET IS DEVOTED TO EQUIPPING OUR FORCES TO A VERY HIGH STANDARD. THE UK WARMLY WELCOMED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUGGESTIONS AT THE RECENT NATO SUMMIT MEETING IN LONDON FOR IMPROVING THE DEFENCE POSTURE AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ALLIANCE; AND WE ARE NOW ACTIVELY DISCUSSING WITH THE UNITED STATES AND OUR OTHER NATO ALLIES HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM PROPOSALS RECENTLY AGREED AT THE MEETING OF NATO DEFENCE MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS. THE UK ALSO PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP DISCUSSIONS IN OTTAWA LAST WEEK ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE ALLIANCE'S NUCLEAR DEFENCE POSTURE

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IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS--AND ALSO TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE IMPORTANT PROPOSALS FOR ARMS CONTROL IN THIS FIELD.

THE UK HAS A MAJOR RE-EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME GOING AHEAD, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE PROPERLY EQUIPPED TO CARRY OUT THEIR VARIOUS ROLES. IN MAY, TWO MAJOR WARSHIPS WERE LAUNCHED WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF EACH OTHER: HMS INVINCIBLE, THE FIRST OF A NEW CLASS OF ASW THROUGH-DECK CRUISER WHICH WILL BE FITTED WITH SEA DART; AND HMS BATTLEAXE, THE SECOND TYPE-22 FRIGATE. THE ARMY'S ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY IS TO BE IMPROVED BY THE PROCUREMENT OF MILAN; AND TWO CONVENTIONAL ARTILLERY

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SYSTEMS (FH70 AND SP70) ARE BEING DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GERMANS AND THE ITALIANS. RAF STRIKE/ATTACK SQUADRONS ARE NOW EQUIPPED WITH JAGUAR; AND THE RAF LOOKS FORWARD TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ADVANCED TORNADO AIRCRAFT OF WHICH PRODUCTION HAS BEGUN. A DECISION HAS ALSO, OF COURSE, RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN TO EQUIP THE RAF WITH AEW NIMRODS. THESE WILL REPLACE THE CURRENT FORCE OF AGEING SHACKLETON AIRCRAFT. IN DEVELOPING THIS CAPABILITY WE SHALL AIM TO SECURE THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE INTER-OPERABILITY AND COMPATIBILITY WITH WHATEVER EARLY WARNING AIRCRAFT OUR NATO ALLIES MAY DECIDE TO PROCURE. SKYFLASH MEDIUM RANGE AIR TO AIR MISSILES, PRODUCED BY HSD, ARE TO BE ADOPTED BY THE RAF FOR ITS PHANTOMS AND TORNADOES. SKYFLASH ALSO HAS EXCELLENT EXPORT PROSPECTS.

THE DEFENCE BUDGET PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN PROVIDING JOBS UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY. ABOUT 70,000 WORKERS EMPLOYED BY MAJOR COMPANIES IN THE AIRFRAME AND AERO-ENGINE SECTORS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AEROSPACE INDUSTRY ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED ON MOD OR DEFENCE SALES WORK.

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ANOTHER 70,000 ARE INDIRECTLY EMPLOYED FOR DEFENCE ON SUB-CONTRACT WORK. IN TOTAL, APART FROM SOME 340,000 SERVICEMEN AND 283,000 CIVILIANS EMPLOYED DIRECTLY BY MOD, DEFENCE SPENDING GENERATES SOME 200,000 DIRECT JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN INDUSTRY; EVERY 10,000 POUNDS OR SO SPENT ON DEFENCE EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY EMPLOYS ONE MAN. DEFENCE INDUSTRIES ALSO PLAY A MAJOR PART IN BOOSTING

BRITISH EXPORTS--THIS IS A KEY FACTOR IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE STRENGTH OF OUR ECONOMY.

ALL THESE THINGS DEMONSTRATE THAT THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT ATTACHES VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DEFENCE; AND INTENDS TO KEEP THE COUNTRY'S FORCES IN A FIRST CLASS STATE. OUR ARMED FORCES ARE, OF COURSE, ALL-VOLUNTEER, AND THE CURRENT HIGH RATES OF RECRUITING AND RE-ENGAGEMENT ARE BUOYANT. MY CONTACTS WITH SERVICEMEN BOTH IN THIS COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS HAVE SHOWN ME THAT THE MEMBERS OF OUR FORCES ARE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY. WE ARE DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF WORTHWHILE AND REWARDING JOBS. I FULLY APPRECIATE THAT SOME OF THESE ARE IN DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING CIRCUMSTANCES; AND I AM GLAD THAT I WAS ABLE RECENTLY TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF THOSE SERVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND. END QUOTE.

BREWSTER

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TAGS: MARR, MASS, UK, NATO
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